

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-10 are amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found in Applicant's disclosure, for example, on page 5, lines 18-39 and page 12, line 33 - page 13, line 3 of the specification, in Fig. 4, and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Applicant amends Fig. 1 to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 is amended to obviate the rejection. With respect to claim 10, no amendment to this claim is necessary to overcome the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the term "embedded in" in the context of the claims and with reference to Applicant's disclosure. In this regard, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the bounds of this claim and §112 demands no more.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,203,656 to Syed in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,534,813 to Williamson et al. (hereinafter "Williamson"); and rejects claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over what is alleged to be Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") in view of Syed and further in view of Williamson. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, a method for making an acoustic panel that includes making a septum of component parts being cut from a flexible strip, the

component parts being defined so as to enable, with suitable flexing, an approximation of the final shape, by developable curved surfaces substantially joined together, to be obtained, the maximum error being noted as E, the transverse pressure then bringing about the deformation of the component parts so as to bring them to the final shape, E having a sufficiently low value to prevent the component parts from creasing and tearing during this deformation. The combination of Syed and Williamson cannot reasonably be interpreted as teaching, or having suggested, the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1.

Syed teaches a method for making an acoustic liner 10 comprising, as shown in Fig. 1, a porous face sheet 22, an impervious back sheet 24 and two honeycomb panels 16 and 18 separated therefrom by a septum 20. As described in col. 3, lines 37-45, Syed teaches a septum 20 being made by curing a raw septum 20r from a flexible, soft state to a rigid, hard state for simultaneously bonding together the honeycomb panels 16,18 and forming a rigid septum 20 therebetween (see, e.g., col. 3, line 23-25). In other embodiments, Syed teaches forming the septum 20 in a rigid state by curing a thermoplastic material at elevated temperatures.

Syed fails to teach, or to have suggested, making a septum of component parts being cut from a flexible strip, as positively recited in claim 1. Thus, the claims include elements not found in the prior art, and that perform a function not found in the prior art. Applicant's disclosure describes the advantages of utilizing this method, which includes making it possible to drill the holes of the septum before assembly and advantageously in a flat position, which provides for a rapid and inexpensive procedure because it can be carried out utilizing simple or specialized machines, with simplified automation in both cases (see, e.g., page 4, line 36 - page 5, line 10).

Williamson fails to overcome the above-described deficiencies in the application of Syed to the subject matter of the pending claims. Williamson discloses generating flat-

pattern equivalents for curved surfaces utilizing fabrics. Similar to Syed, Williamson fails to teach, or to have suggested, making a septum of component parts being cut from a flexible strip. Similarly, the Office Action's identification of AAPA also fails to overcome the deficiencies of Syed.

For at least the reasons described above, the combination of Syed, Williamson and AAPA cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2-10 would not have been suggested by the combination of applied references for at least the respective dependence of each of these claims on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over any combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:RMJ/lmf

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Fig. 1)

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